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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8224
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4460
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2694
CINCPAC
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 172

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/C.I.C. MR
REVIEWED BY Susan Szuba DATE 1/26/82
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 SAIGON 7707

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUB: ACTIVITY OF SENATE LISTS AND OTHER GROUPS

REF: A. SAIGON 6531 B. SAIGON 6340 C. SAIGON 6738

KATHMANDU FOR AMBASSADOR BUNKER

1. VICTORIOUS SENATE LISTS HAVE BEEN SORTING THEMSELVES

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OUT, BEGINNING TO CLARIFY THEIR VIEWS ON PENDING NATIONAL PROBLEMS, AND SEEKING ELECTORAL ALLIANCES WITH LOWER HOUSE CANDIDATES AS FIRST STEP TOWARDS CREATING SERIES OF NEW POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS. AT THIS STAGE IT IS FAIRLY CLEAR THESE GROUPINGS WILL BE LOOSE, FRONT-TYPE BODIES, BUT

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THEY COULD ULTIMATELY PROVIDE THE NUCLEUS FOR POLITICAL PARTY DEVELOPMENT.
2. ONE OF THE MOST INTERESTING OF POTENTIAL NEW GROUPINGS IS PEASANTS WORKERS MILITARY GROUP (NONG CONG BINH) OF GENERAL TRAN VAN DON, WHOSE LIST NO. 13 FAR OUTPOLLED OTHER SENATE LISTS IN ELECTIONS. DANG VAN SUNG, FORMER DAI VIET FIGURE WHO WAS ELECTED ON DON'S LIST AND WHO IS CREDITED BY DONOR HAVING DONE ORGANIZATIONAL WORK THAT MADE VICTORY POSSIBLE, PROMOTED MEETING OF COMMITTEE TO ESTABLISH NONG CONG BINH MOVEMENT SEPTEMBER 16-17. MEETING DREW SUBSTANTIAL ATTENDANCE, INCLUDING 114 LOWER HOUSE CANDIDATES, WHICH LED PRESS TO SPECULATE THAT DON IS SUPPORTING 114 CANDIDATES. THIS IS NOT CORRECT, HOWEVER, AS IT APPEARS THAT MANY OF THE 114 ARE OPPOSING CANDIDATES IN SPECIFIC CONSTITUENCIES. THE ATTENDED

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MEETING IN HOPE OF GAINING DON'S SUPPORT. DANG VAN SUNG SUBSEQUENTLY RETIRED TO VUNG TAU TO CONTINUE WORK ON NONG CONG BINH MOVEMENT. TRAN VAN DON HAS SINCE TOLD US HE WILL BE SUPPORTING ABOUT 50 LOWER HOUSE CANDIDATES.
3. DON AND SUNG HAD TOLD US BEFORE SENATE ELECTIONS THAT THEY
ULTIMATELY HOPE TO USE THEIR SENATE LIST AS BASE FOR ORGANIZING NEW POLITICAL GROUPING. IN INTERVIEW WITH VIET-NAM PRESS SEPT 21 DON STATED THAT NONG CONG BINH BLOC WOULD DEVELOP INTO POLITICAL PARTY, BUT HE MADE CLEAR HE WAS NOT ENGAGED IN ESTABLISHING POLITICAL OPPOSITION BLOC. DON AVOIDED PRESENTING ANY SPECIFIC PROGRAM DURING CAMPAIGN AND HAS STILL NOT DEVELOPED ONE, THOUGH HE IS DEEPLY INTERESTED IN CARRYING THROUGH THOROUGH REORGANIZATION OF RVNAF. HE TOLD EMBOFF IN AUGUST THAT HE FOUND IT QUITE ABNORMAL UNQTE THAT GVN SHOULD SEND ITS GENERAL OFFICERS ABROAD TO SERVE AS AMBASSADORS WHILE U.S. SENDS ITS GENERAL OFFICERS TO VIET-NAM TO FIGHT WAR. IN PUBLIC SPEECHES DON HAS MADE POINT THAT AS LONG AS COMMUNISTS CONTINUE WAGE WAR AGAINST PEOPLE OF SOUTH VIETNAM, THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE TO CONTINUING STRUGGLE.

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4. TRAN VAN LAM, ELECTED TO SENATE ON LIST NO. 3, SEVERAL MEMBERS OF WHICH WERE PROMINENT IN DIEM REGIME, HAS TOLD US THAT HE AND HIS SLATE WILL SUPPORT ABOUT 15 LOWER HOUSE CANDIDIATES. IN INTERVIEW WITH SAIGON POST SEPT 20 LAM QUOTED AS STATING THAT QTE SO LONG AS NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY IN BOTH SOUTH AND NORTH VIETNAM IS NOT IN HANDS OF VIETNAMESE, THERE WILL BE NO PEACE TALKS UNQTE, ELABORATING ON THIS POINT IN A CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, LAM SAID EVERYONE KNOWS THAT ON VITAL QUESTION OF WAR AND PEACE GVN DOES NOT HAVE DECISIVE VOICE IN SOUT VIETNAM, SINCE IT SO HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON U.S. SUPPORT. HE ADDED HE CONVINCED THAT DRV IS NOW SO HEAVILY MORTAGED TO SOVIETS AND CHICOMS THAT DRV LEADERSHIP, UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, IS UNABLE TO OPT FOR PEACEFUL SOLUTION. LAM WAS AT PAINS TO MAKE CLEAR THAT U.S. SUPPORT FOR GVN IS MUCH APPRECIATED AND VITAL TO CONTINUED INDEPENDENCE OF SOUT VIETNAM, HOWEVER, HE EMPHASIZED THAT SOUTH VIETNAMESE MUST PLAY LEADING ROLE IN MILITARY AND POLITICAL FIELD. HIS RUNNING-MATE, TRAN CHANH THANH, FORMER DIRECTOR GENERAL OF INFORMATION AND AMBASSADOR TO TUNISIA UNDER DIEM, HAS

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STATED THAT QTE ALL QUESTIONS RELATED TO WAR MUST BE DEBATED ON FLOOR OF SENATE OF VIETNAM. IF U.S. WANTS TO MAKE DECISION WITHOUT CONSULTING OUR GOVERNMENT, IT WILL MEET WITH OPPOSITION FROM US AS WELL AS FROM AMERICAN PUBLIC UNQTE.
5. IN PRESS INTERVIEW SEPT 28 TRAN VAN LAM STATED FOLLOWING WOULD BE OBJECTIVES OF HIS LIST: 1) ESTABLISHMENT OF STATUTE FOR ALLIED FORCES IN VIETNAM. 2) DRAWING UP PROGRAM TO FIGHT CORRUPTION AND SOCIAL INJUSTICE: 3) REDUCTION OF GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES; 4) SOCIAL REFORMS: 5) ATTAINMENT OF PEACE WITHOUT STRINGS TO EITHER COMMUNISTS OR CAPITALISTS.
6. LAM, WHO IS CATHOLIC, TELLS US HE IS OPPOSED TO

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ESTABLISHMENT OF CATHOLIC BLOC IN SENATE, AS IT WOULD SPLIT HIS OWN SLATE (WHICH IS HALF CATHOLIC AND HALF NON-CATHOLIC) AND BECAUSE IT WOULD RAISE OLD FEELINGS OF RANCOR AND BITTERNESS WHICH WERE BETTER LEFT ALONE.
7. SENATOR-ELECT NGUYEN GIN HIEN, WHOSE LIST NO. 8 WAS SUPPORTED BY LARGELY CATHOLIC-ORIENTED GREATER SOLIDERITY FRONT (DAI DOAN DET), HAS NATURAL POLTICIAL BASE WHICH HE

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IS PLANNING TO EXPAND BY SUPPORTING ABOUT 30 LOWER HOUSE CANDIDATES IN FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS. HIEN IS POLITICALLY CLOSE TO GENERAL KY (HIEN'S LIST WAS ONLY ONE OF SIX LISTS REPORTEDLY SUPPORTED BY KY TO WIN) AND WILL PROBABLY BE AMONG GVN'S STRONGER SUPPORTERS IN SENATE. A NATIVE OF PHAT DIEM IN NORTH VIETNAM AND HIMSELF AN ACTIVE CATHOLIC, HIEN TOLD SAIGON POST SEPT 23 QTE THERE WILL ONLY BE A PEACE CONFERENCE WHEN COMMUNISTS REALIZE THAT THEY CANNOT WIN MILITARILY AND POLITICALLY IN SOUTHVIET NAM. AND WHEN WE HAVE WON POLITICALLY, WE CAN CONSIDER COMMUNIST NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT AS POLITICAL ORGANIZATION UNQTE.
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8225
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4461
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2695
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8. SENATOR-ELECT NGUYEN VAN HUYEN'S LIST NO. 40 PLACED SECOND IN SENATE ELECTIONS. HUYEN AND ALL BUT ONE OF HIS LIST ARE CATHOLICS. AND MOST ARE FROM SOUTH. HUYEN TOLD EMBOFF SEPT 22 HE IS NOT NOW PLANNING TO EXTABLISH POLITICAL GROUPING AS SUCH AND HAS NOT SO FAR DEVELOPED A SPECIFIC POLITICAL PROGRAM, PREFERRING TO LEAVE THIS FOR OPENING OF SENATE IN OCTOBER. HUYEN , A RESPECTED ATTORNEY AND MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL WNADERSHIP COMMITTEE, IS CLEARLY PRO-GVN IN HIS OUTLOOK AND MAY BE EXPECTED TO SUPPORT

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THE GOVERNMENT IN SENATE. HE TERMED ELECTIONS MAJOR STEP TOWARD ESTABLISHMENT OF DEMOCRATIC BASE FOR NATION AND TOWARD POLITICAL DEFEAT OF ENEMY. HE HAS INDICATED THAT HE GROUP WILL PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO PROBLEMS IN THE ECONOMIC AND EDUCATIONAL FIELDS.

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9. SENATOR-ELECT HUYNH VAN CAO'S LIST NO. 31 PLACED FOURTH IN SENATE ELECTIONS. CAO AND THREE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE LIST ARE CATHOLICS, FOUR ARE BUDDHISTS, AND ONE EACH IS CAO DAI AND HOA HAO. CAO, A RETIRED GENERAL, IS FAIRLY AMBITIOUS FOR THE FUTURE, PLANNING TO SUPPORT ABOUT 12 CANDIDATES IN THE LOWER HOUSE. HE TOLD EMBOFF SEPT 25 HE HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH OTHER WINNING SLATES HEADED BY HIEN, NGUYEN AND LAM (I.E., ALL HEADED BY CATHOLICS), LOOKING TOWARDS FORMATION OF POLTICIAL GROUP WHICH HE HAS TENTATIVELY NAMED QUOC DAO--XA (NATION, DEMOCRACY, SOCIET). HE ASKED EMBOFF ABOUT ADVISABILITY OF ESTABLISHING A CATHOLIC BLOC. EMBOFF REPLIED THAT THIS MIGHT BE CONSIDERED PROVACATIVE ACT BY BUDDHISTS AND THAT SOME OF QTE CATHOLIC UNQTE LISTS, SUCH AS TRAN VAN LAM, LIKELY TO OPPOSE SINCE THIS WOULD THREATEN INTERNAL

COHESION OF THEIR LISTS, WHICH BALANCED BETWEEN CATHOLICS AND BUDDHISTS. COMMENTING ON WHO MIGHT BE FUTURE PRESIDENT OF SENATE, CAO VOLUNTEERED THAT HE DOUBTED GENERAL TRAN VAN DON WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE PRESIDENT, AS FROM LONG YEARS RESIDENCE IN FRANCE HE HAS CURIOUS ACCENT IN VIETNAMESE WHICH MIGHT PROVOKE LAUGHTER. CAO SAID BOTH ARE CATHOLICS, AND A CATHOLIC MIGHT NOT BE ACCEPTABLE. HE NOTED THAT LAM MIGHT ADDITIONALLY BE UNACCEPTABLE SINCE HE FORMERLY WAS CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH DIEM REGIME.

10. REVOLUTIONARY DAI VIET (RDV) SLATE OF NGUYEN NGOC KY WAS BARELY ELECTED TO SENATE, IN SIXTH PLACE, ONLY 1721 VOTES AHEAD OF HOA HAO - SUPPORTED LIST NO. 10 (PHAN BA CAM). DAI VIET PROSPECTS WERE FURTHER DAMAGED BY CAMPARATIVELY MEDIOCRE SHOWING OF HA THUC KY IN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, IN WHICH HE LACED FIFTH. HOWEVER, PARTY HAS EVIDENTLY DECIDED TO ENTER FULLY INTO NEW NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. HOANG XUAN TUU, ONE OF DAI VIET LIST ELECTED TO SENATE, TOLD EMBOFF IN DA NANG SEPT 15 THAT RDV DECIDED TO WORK

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WITH GENERAL THIEU SINCE ALTERNATIVE IS COOPERATION WITH
BUDDHIST EXTREMISTS IN AN QUANG PAGODA (REF A). MEANWHILE,
RDV HAS COMPLETED MOST OF ITS PLANS FOR LOWER HOUSE
ELECTIONS, IN WHICH THE RDV WILL HAVE 36 CANDIDATES
(EVS 4593). RDV DOES NOT YET SEEM TO HAVE DEVELOPED
PROGRAM TO SUPPORT IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. HOWEVER, IN
INTERVIEW WITH VIETNAM PRESS SEPT 21, NGUYEN VAN NGA, ON
ONE OF RDV SENATORS-ELECT AND MEMBER OF OUTGOING NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY, STATED THAT, WHILE VIETNAM APPRECIATES SUPPORT
IT RECIEVING FROM FREE WORLD ALLIES, FUTURE NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY WILL HAVE DUTY TO DRAW UP STATUTE GOVERNING
STATIONING OF ALLED TROOPS IN VIETNAM. TRAN VAN LAM
HAS TAKEN SIMILAR POSITION. NGAI STATED THIS NECESSARY
BOTH TO DISPEL WHAT HE CALLED DOUBTS AMONG PEOPLE
REGARDING STATUS OF VIETNAMESE NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY
AND TO STRENGTHEN GVN POSITION FOR STRUGGLE AGAINST
COMMUNISTS.
1. PARALLEL PROCESS OF ORGANIZATION ALSO GOING ON AMONG
DEFEATED CANDIDATES AND OTHERS WHO LOOKING TO FUTURE. CURRENTLY
ATTRACTING CONSIDERABLE PRESS PUBLICITY IS GROUP OF DEFEATED

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PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES NOW MORE OR LESS COALESCED AROUND
TRUONG DINH DZU. ORIGINALLY SIX IN NUMBER, HOANG CO BINH
NOW SEEMS HAVE DROPPED OUT, AND JOINT STEERING COMMITTEE SET
UP BY DEMOCRATIC FRONT AND DEMOCRATIC MOVEMET NOW INCLUDES
PHAN KHAC SUU AS CHAIRMAN; AND VU HONG KHANH, NGUYEN HOA HIEP,
TRUONG KINH DZU, TRAN VAN CHIEU (DZU'S VICE-PRESIDENTIAL
RUNNING-MATE), AND NINE DEFEATED SENATE CANDIDATES AS VICE-
CHAIRMEN. HOWEVER, STANDING COMMITTEE WILL BE IN CHARGE OF
DAY-TO-DAY ACTIVITIES, WITH DZU AS SECRETARY GENERAL AND
TRAN VAN CHIEU AND SIX DEFEATED SENATE CANDIDATES AS DEPUTY
SECRETARIES GENERAL. WITH DZU'S ARREST SEPTEMBE 29 FOR
INSULTING VIETNAMESE COURTS, DEMOCRATICE FRONT HAS NOT BEEN
PARTICULARLY ACTIVE. PROTESTS OF PHAN KHAC SUU AND OTHER
DEFEATED CIVILIAN CANDIDATES HAVE LOST SOME OF THEIR VIGOR,
LEAVING TRUONG DINH DZU AS PRIMARY BENEFICIARY. DZU WORKED
HARD WITH STUDENT AND YOUTH GROUPS, PRIOR TO HIS ARREST, BUT

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APPEARS TO HAVE HAD VERY LIMITED SUCCESS. OTHER OPPOSITIONIST IGURES, SUCH AS CO VAN HAI (DEFEATED SENATE CADIDATE ON LIST NO. 27) AND TRAN VAN TUYEN, TELL US DZU NOT SIGNIFICANT, SINCE HE DOES NOT HAVE GOOD REPUTATION. IT IS INTERESTING

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THAT SENATOR-ELECT NGUYEN VAN HUYEN, HIMSELF A LAWYER, TELLS US THAT DZU IS SIMPLY A CROOK AND THAT CHARGES ON WHICH HE RECENTLY CONVICTED ARE WELL-BASED.
12. PHAN KHAC SUU HAS TOLD US THAT HE INTENDS TO FORM RURAL-BASED OPPOSITION PARTY. THIS INDICATES HE EXPECTS LITTLE TO COME OF DEMOCRATIC FRONT JOINT STEERING COMMITTEE (ABOVE) OF WHICH HE IS NOMINAL CHAIRMAN. SUU REPORTEDLY C
INS TO CALL NEW PARTY TAN DZN (NEW PEOPLE'S PARTY), HOPING TO BRING INTO IT FRONT OF ALL RELIGIONS, CAO DAI OF TAY NINH PROVINCE, AND UNNAMED YOUTH ORGANIZATION. THIS IS PRETTY CLEARLY NON-STARTER. NOT ONLY IS SUU TIRED AND WORN-OUT. BUT BUILDING MATERIALS HE HAS REFERRED TO OFFER VERY LITTLE. FRONT OF ALL RELIGIONS HAS NOT BEEN ACTIVE FOR SOME TIME. CAO DAI HAVE CAREFULLY AVOIDED ANY POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT IN CURRENT SERIES OF ELECTIONS AND WILL PROBABBLY CONTNUE DO SO. DOUBTFUL THAT SUU CAN KINDLE MUCH ENTHUSIASM FROM AMONG YOUTH.
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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO ASECSTATE WASHDC 8226
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4462
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UNIVERSITY STUDENTS HAVE NOT RESPONDED TO CALLS TO DEMONSTRATE AGAINST ELECTIONS IN ANY GREAT NUMBERS. DUMONSTRATION SEPT 24 DREW ONLY 300 OUT OF SOME 30,000 UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN SAIGON. SUTDENTS ATTEMPTED DEMONSTRATE OCTOBER 2 BUT FAILED, DUE POLICE OPPOSITION.
13. TRAN VAN TUEYN , DEPTUY PRIME MINISTER UNDER PHAM HUY QUAT IN 1965, IS PRESENTLY JOINING WITH OTHERS IN EFFORT TO FORM NEW POLITICAL GROUPING WHICH HAS TENTATIVELY NAMED FRONT FOR SOCIAL ACTION. HE RECENTLY EMBOFF HE HAD

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DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY OF FORMING SUCH GROUP WITH GENERAL THIEU LAST MAY, BEFORE THIEU FORMALLY BECAME CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENCY. TUYEN SAID HE FORSEES DEVELOPMENT OF TWO CENTERS OF POLTICIAL POWER: ONE AROUND THIEU AS PRESIDENT AND OTHER AROUND RESPONSIBLE OPPOSITION GROUP

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WITH WHICH HE IDENTIFIED HIMSELF. HE ADDED THAT THIEU HABICALLY FAVORS THIS CONCEPT AND MAY BE PREPARED TO

PROVIDE SOME FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO OPPOSITION GROUP BUT NOT UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES THAT WOULD LEAVE OPPOSITION MERE CREATURE OF GVN. TUYEN SAID HE HAS BEEN WORKING WITH SOCIALIST PARTY ELEMENTS LED BY DO VAN HAI; YOUNGER MRS ELEMENTS CLOSE TO TRAN VAN HUONG, SUCH AS VO LONG TRIEU AND NGUYEN VAN TRUONG; AND YOUNG UNIVERSITY STUDENTS (NOT IDENTIFIED). TUYEN IS DISAPPOINTED THAT HIS SENATE SLATE, LED BY FOREIGN MINISTER TRAN VAN DO, WAS NOT ELECTED (IT ACTUALLY PLACE TWENTY-FIFTH). HOWEVER, TUYEN IS PHILOSOPHICAL BOUT IT, REGARDS ELECTIONS AS BASICALLY HONEST, AND CONSULDES THAT PRESENT SITUATION IS MARKED IMPROVEMENT OVER MILITARY REGIME INSTALLED BY ARMED FORCES 18, 1965.

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14. GVT EFFORTS TO PLACE SUPPORTERS IN LOWER HOUSE ARE DISCUSSED IN REF B. ALTHOUGH CLOSELY RELATED TO GENERAL TRAN VAN DON'S NONG CONG BINH GROUP, CVT CANDIDATES FOR LOWER HOUSE ARE ESSENTIALLY DISTINCT FROM DON AND MAY ULTIMATELY DEVELOP INTO A DISTINCT LOWER HOUSE GROUP.
15. BUDDHISTS OF AN QUANG PAGODA FACTION CONTINUE BASICALLY UNRECONCILED TO ELECTION RESULTS AND TO CONTINUATION OF THIEU GOVERNMENT. THEY HAVE BEEN AT SOME PAINS RECENTLY TO MAKE CLEAR THEIR PRESENT DEMANDS ARE LIMITED TO REVISION OF BUDDHIST CHARTER PROMULGATED BY GENERAL THIEU IN JULY. NOVERTHELESS, AGGRESSIVE MANNER IN WHICH MILITANT BUDDHISTS SUCH AS THICH TRI QUANG DENOUNCED GENERAL THIEU AT PRESS CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 24 (REF C) AND DETERMINED MANNER IN WHICH AN QUANG GROUP IS PRESSING ITS CAMPAIGN TO OVERTURN JULY BUDDHIST CHARTER RAISES QUESTION AS TO WHETHER AN QUANG FACTION NEW PLANNING STEP MORE OPENLY INTO POLITICAL ARENA AFTER MONTHS OF COMPARATIVE INACTION. SAIGON PRESS REPORTS COMMITTEE HEADED BY THICH THIEN MINH HAS BEEN SET UP TO CAMPAIGN FOR ABOUT 100 CANDIDATES FOR LOWER HOUSE WHO SYMPATHETIC TO ANQUANG GROUP. THIS SEEMS DIFFICULT

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ACCEPT, HOWEVER, AS AN QUANG BUDDHISTS DO NOT HAAVE NATIONWIDE
ORGANIZATION ADEQUATE TO CAMPAIGN FOR 100 CANDIDATES,
AND IF THEY SUFFER HUMILIATING DEFEAT, THIS WILL FURTHER
ERODE ANY REMAINING POLITICAL INFLUENCE AN QUANG BUDDHISTS
HAVE.
16. MEMBERS OF SENATE LIST NO. 10 'PHAN BA CAM', WHO, UNTIL
LAST MOMENT, THOUGHT THEY HAD BEEN ELECTED, ARE UNDERSTANDABLY
BITTER ABOUT TURN OF EVENTS AND STATE THEY WILL BOYCOTT LOWER
HOUSE ELECTIONS. LE VAN TAM, SAIGON LAWYER AND MEMBER OF
LIST 10, TOLD EMBOFF RECENTLY THAT HOA-DAO SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC
PARTY, WHICH PRESENTED LIST 10 IN SENATE ELECTIONS, WOULD
WITHDRAW 200R SO CANDIDATES IT HAD PUT FORWARD FOR LOWER
HOUSE ELECTION. TAM VERY BITTER IN COVERSATION WITH EMBOFF
SEPT20, DENOUNCING ELECTIONS AS COMPLETE FARCE, ALTERNATELY
(AND IN CONTRADICTORY FASHION) ALLEGING ELECTION RESULTS SIMPLY
MADE UP AND THEN ALLEGIN WILDLY THAT THIEU HAD SPENT
84 BILLION PIASTRES TO BUY VOTES (I.E., ABOUT TWO BILLION PIASTRES
PER PROVINCE!. EMBOFF JOCULARLY POINTED OUT TO HIM THAT,
IF ELECTION RELULTS MADE UP OUT OF WHOLE CLOTH, UNNECESSARY
TO SPEND MONEY TO BUY VOTES. THIS MERELY LED TO NEW

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PAROXYSM OF DENUNCIATION OF ELECTIONS, CRITICISM OF U.S.
ACCEPTANCE OF RESULTS. LOOT-LI
KING PRAISE OF FRENCH
POLITICAL SKILL COMPARED TO U.S. QTE BUNGLING UNQTE, ETC.
TRAN DUY DON, CHAIRMAN OF HOA HAO CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE
COMMITTEE, DEEPLY DISAPPOINTED BUT MORE BALANCED, THOUGH
HE CONFIRMED SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY WOULD WITHDRAW TIS
CANDIDATES, IN OPEN LETTER TO NATIONAL LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE
OF SEPTEMBER 28 PHAN BA CAM REFERRED TO RECENTLY ELECTED
SENATE AS QTE PREFAB DSHOCRATIC MONSTER UNQTE.
17. NOW THAT THEMAJOR HURDLE OF ELECTION VALIDATION IS
OVER, IT IS LIKELY THAT FOCUS OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY WILL
BE WHERE IT LOGICALLY BELONGS, IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND IN

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PRESIDENCY. GROUPS WHICH BASICALLY ACCEPT RESULTS O: ELECTIOO AND ARE PREAPRED TO WORK WITH AND THROUGH NEW CONSTITUTION AS IMPLEMENTED BY GVN, SHOULD ACQUIRE INCREASING SIGNIFICANCE. BY SAME TOKEN, GROUPS WHICH HAVE REJECTED ELECTION IN VIOLENT TERMS ARE LIKELY DECLINE AS SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL FACTORS.
18. ONLY REAL POSSIBILITY OPEN TO THE OPPOSITION GROUPS WHO BASICALLY REJECT THE ELECTIONS IS APPEAL TO STREETS,

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TO MOB VIOLENCE, TO COUP D'ETAT. IN THE MONTH THAT HAS PASSED SINCE THE ELECTION, EFFORTS BY THESE GROUPS (DZU, BUDDHISTS, DISSATISFIED UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, DEFEATED SENATE CANDIDATES) TO ORGANIZE DEMONSTRATIONS AND HOLD PRESS CONFERENCES IN EFFORT TO STIMULATE TIDAL WAVE OF PUBLIC DISCONTENT, HAVE FAILED TO AROUSE MAJOR PUBLIC SUPPORT, THOUGH THEY HAVE CREATED PROBLEMS FOR POLICE AND HAVE CAUSED TRAFFIC JAMS.
19. FOR THE FUTURE, THE PRINCIPAL QUESTION FACING OPPOSITION GROUPS WHICH HAVE REJECTED THE ELECTIONS IS WHETHER THEY WILL RECONSIDER THEIR POSITION. THAT IS, WHETHER THEY WILL FIND A WAY TO
ENTER INTO CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PRESIDENT AND TTHE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, OR , LIKE FRENCH PARTIES OF THE RIGHT IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY, IN WORDS OF ANATOLE FRANCE, THEY WILL SIMPLY STAND ACROSS THE RIVER AND THROW STONES.

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